

## Little House on the Prairie

Laura was two years old when the family left for Kansas, prairie country. Baby Carrie, who was only planned to survive one book, had not yet been born. Originally, Laura Ingalls Wilder only planned to write one book. She did not complicate her story with the fact that in 'Pepin'. The response from the children's reading her stories was so phenomenal that it encouraged her to write an eight-volume historical novel for children covering her life on the American frontier.

Therefore, the events of this book took place before many events in Little House in the Big Woods. Since Laura was only two when they made the journey to Kansas, much of this book is from stories she was told. One thing that did leave a lasting impression on little Laura was the Indian war dances. The chants were clearly audible to them because Pa and Ma had people or the United States government happy. This did not make either the Osage

## Background Information:

### History of the Osage Indians

The French explorers, Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet, first explored the Mississippi River in 1673. During the next decades, other Frenchmen explored the rivers flowing into Kansas. Charles Claude du Tisne journeyed on the Missouri River in 1719 and encountered both the Osage and Pawnee Indians. In 1744 French fur trappers built a stockade near Leavenworth to further their fur trade with the Osage. In 1803 the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory, which included Kansas.

From 1678-1803 the Osage Indians performed a feat that no other American tribe duplicated. They stopped the westward expansion of the Euro-American people and tripled the size of their domain. The Osage occupied parts of Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Kansas. Because of the Osage Nation, neither France nor Spain had been able to control the Middle Waters area (the area west and central to the Mississippi River).

In times of peace, the Osage traded with neighbors and helped them. During times of war, they tried not to take life unnecessarily. Frequently, instead of killing an enemy they would sell them to other tribes as slaves. Early visitors always mentioned how well mannered the Osage were. They did not interrupt each other in speech and treated each other with courtesy.



The Kansas prairie looked like a good place to settle, but it was Indian country. The Osage tribes worried that settlers would drive them away and encroach upon their hunting grounds. All her life, Laura Ingalls Wilder recalled the Indian war chants at the tribes concerned themselves with the Osage. Then Pa heard that the United States Army was going to drive off the settlers from the Indian domain. A letter had arrived from Wisconsin, stating that the man who had purchased the Pepin farm could not pay for it. Pa and Ma could not afford possession of their old home again. They decided to leave Kansas.

An Osage tribesman, circa 1870.





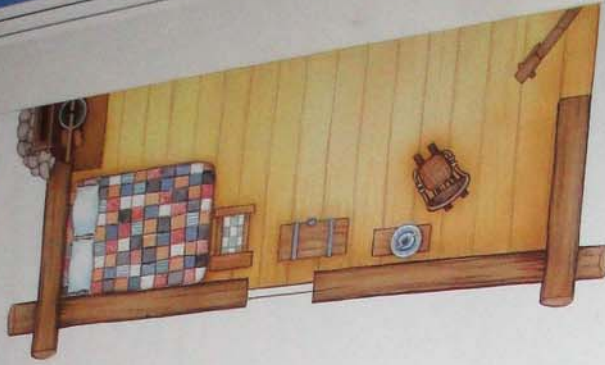
*The way to the prairie*

to put up some kind of shelter there and claim a parcel of land. Pa drove the wagon past the town and out farther onto the prairie until he found a piece of land that seemed just right. There was a creek flowing through it, and the trees that grew along the creek could provide logs for building and for firewood. More important to Pa, there were wide-open fields of prairie grass with no big trees to cut down or plow around.

Right away, Pa "claimed" the land by building a house on it. There was a lot to do to turn the new land into a home and a farm. With the help of neighbors, Pa first built a small one-room log cabin, and then he built a log barn for the horses. Afterward he dug a deep well near the cabin so the family would have fresh water to drink. Then he plowed through the thick prairie grass to make fields for the spring crops.

Life was not always easy on the prairie for the Ingallses. They had to fight prairie fires and sickness. The whole family was struck with "fever 'n' ague," which we know today as malaria. The mosquitoes that thrived along the creeks nearby carried the disease. Fortunately, a doctor who lived on the prairie was able to treat them. His name was Dr. George Tann, and he worked among the Osage Indians who lived by the creeks and rivers near the little house, and who owned the land the Ingalls family lived on.

Despite these difficulties, Laura and her family liked living on the prairie.



*Inside the little house on the prairie*



38 Laura: The Life of Laura Ingalls Wilder  
bachelors living up the creek. Dick and Tom; Mr. Brown; Mr. Stover; Mrs. Robertson; Mr. Thompson, who was a bachelor, who lived across more than a hundred years have passed, only one of Now that can actually be named, and that is the one Laura these people—Dr. George A. Tann. Dr. Tann was exactly the did not name—33 years old. He was born in Pennsylvania and same age as Pa, 33 years old. He was born in a house less he lived with his elderly father's, up along the banks of Walnut Creek. His father was a farmer, his mother kept house. With than a mile to the north of Laura's, Mary Berry, who was listed on the Creek. His father was a 13-year-old girl, Mary Berry, who was listed on the them lived a 13-year-old girl, Mary Berry, who was listed on the census as a servant.

Dr. Tann was a homeopathic surgeon, practicing a branch of medicine still used in some places today. In the old days it was called the "science of a patient who was sick and then studied the symptoms that would produce similar symptoms in the selected a remedy that would produce similar symptoms in the patient. Dr. Tann had been a Union soldier in the Civil War, and he was later a doctor to the same year Pa did—and he spent the rest of his life there, building up his practice among "some of the best known families of the county" and dying in 1909, widely respected.

Of the other families Laura mentions, none can be said with certainty to be listed on the census or to be among those who made land claims in the neighborhood. Still, we might guess at some of them.

Two families named Scott lived nearby. William H. Scott, a farmer, lived less than two miles from the little house on the prairie in Fawn Creek Township. This Mr. Scott first appears in the records in the spring of 1873, long after Laura had left, but it seems very likely that he had come to the neighborhood in the first rush of emigration. This was probably the Scott family of Laura's book.

But there was another Scott—one who was not in the census and who did not file a land claim, but who definitely did live near the little house on the prairie in the year Laura lived there. This was James L. Scott, a surveyor. He had an office in Inde-

pendence where he sold claims, but he also had a house at the head of Onion Creek, on land owned by a blacksmith named S. B. Simmons, three or four miles from the little house on the prairie.

Mr. Edwards is a puzzle. If ever anyone sounded like him it would be J. H. Edwards, who ran Ed's Saloon and dealt in "liquor and cigars" in far-off Fort Scott. But that would certainly be too far away to be Laura's wildcat from Tennessee.

There are people we know for sure lived on the prairie near Ma and Pa. Laura didn't mention them because she didn't remember them, and she had no chance to look at the census records where their names are recorded. These neighbors included Joseph James from Kentucky, Alexander Johnson from Illinois, and John Rowles from Maryland. These neighbors in Robert Gilmore and John Friendly, and even a man whose name sums up the search for Laura's neighbors: Mr. Riddle.

Out on the prairie the nights grew cold, and the prairie light took on a chill white quality. But during the day, summer still clung to the rolling land. Hawks were overhead, making sharp shadows in the grass. Laura and Mary went off together to play in the drowsy air along the creek bottoms. They spied out the fresh tracks of silent deer and watched carefully for snakes. They watched the waters of Walnut Creek bubbling eastward, running into Onion Creek and then the Verdigris and then the Arkansas and then the Mississippi. The days began to grow short, and it was during this time that Jack the brindle bulldog got into a fight with Mr. Scott's dogs and all the neighbors became afraid of Jack.

One day while Pa was off hunting, two Indians came riding slowly down the Indian trail. They looked so fierce that Laura shivered. With Mary, she had played that day near the stable where Jack was chained. "I was two years, the littlest," she said many years later in her memoir. When the Indians disappeared, her heart pounded. There was only one place they could have gone.

The Indians were Osages, and this was the story of "Indians in the House." Their visit was a reminder that the little house on



























LAND OF HIAWATHA

MICHIGAN

THE NORTH









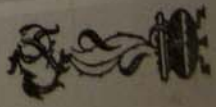


**POCAHONTAS COUNTY**  
WEST VIRGINIA  
**Huntersville Elementary School**  
Established 1880  
Replica made by:  
Earl M. Ketting, Age 44 - August, 2009  
Attended school - 1957 - 1975

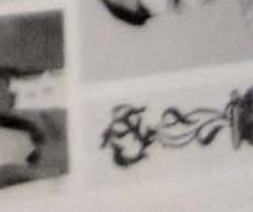
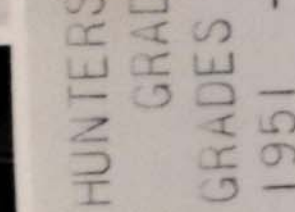
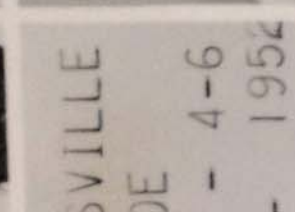




*Huntersville Grade  
Grades 1-2 & 3  
1950 — 1951*







HUNTERSVILLE  
GRADE  
GRADES - 4-6  
1951 - 1952





HUNTERSVILLE GRADE  
4-6  
1952 - 1953







1953-1953  
*HUNTERSVILLE SCHOOL*

Grades 4-6















Huntersville Grade  
Grades 1-2 1/2, 3

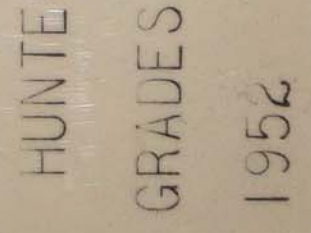
1950 - 1951

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HUNTERSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  
 GRADES 4-6  
 1952 - 1953





*Joyce Boyd*



*Blair Boylan*



*May Lee Taylor*



*Thomas Clark*



*Robert McArthur*



*John McArthur*



*Paul McArthur*



*Miss McArthur*



*Miss Taylor*



*Miss Taylor*



*Miss Taylor*



*Miss Taylor*



*Miss Taylor*



*Miss Taylor*



*Miss Taylor*



1953-1953  
HUNTERSVILLE SCHOOL

*Miss Taylor*



*Miss Taylor*



*Miss Taylor*



*Miss Taylor*



*Miss Taylor*



*Miss Taylor*



*Miss Taylor*



*Miss Taylor*












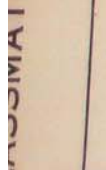
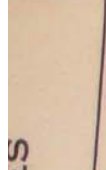


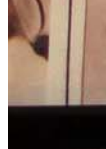


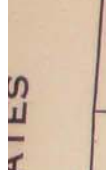
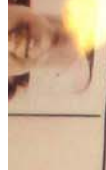



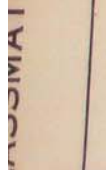
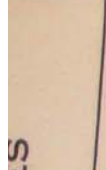


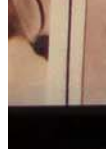


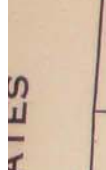
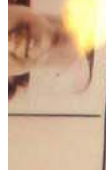



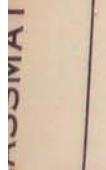
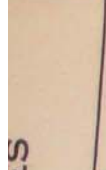


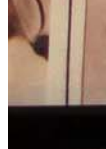


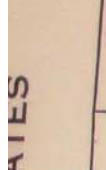
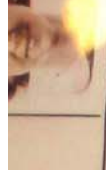



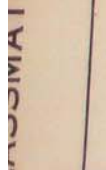
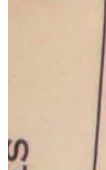


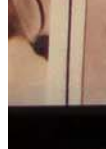


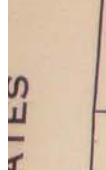
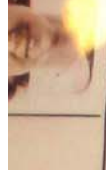



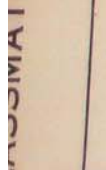
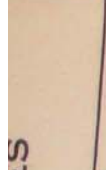


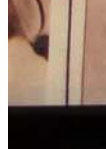


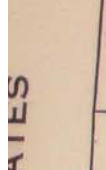
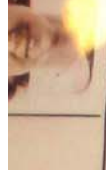



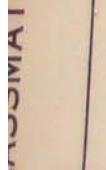
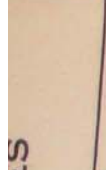


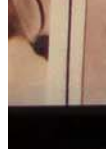


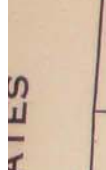
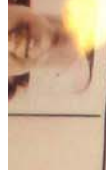



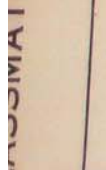
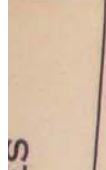


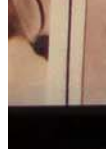


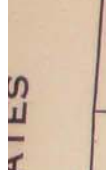
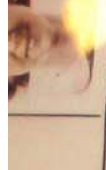



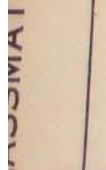
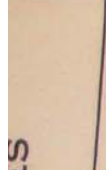


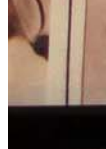


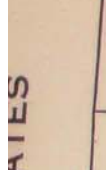
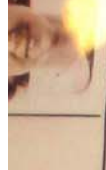



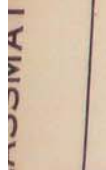
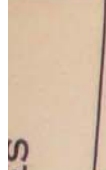


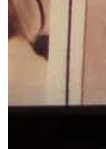


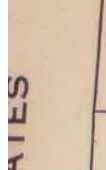
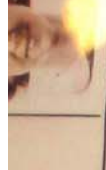



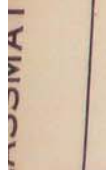
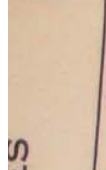


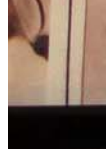


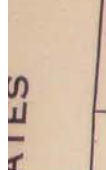
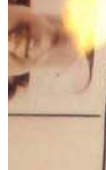



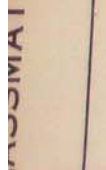
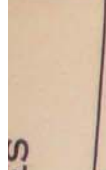


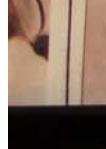


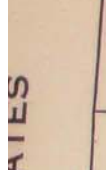
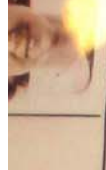



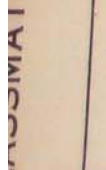
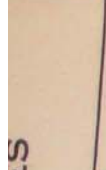


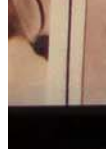


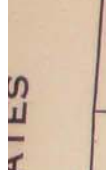
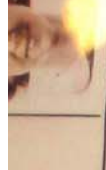



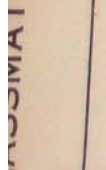
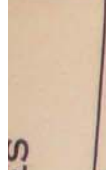


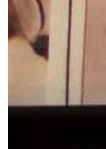


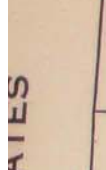
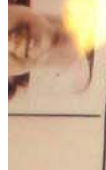



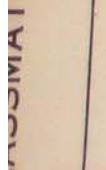
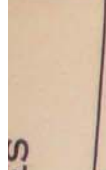


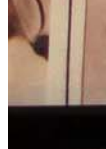


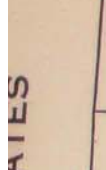
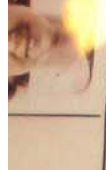



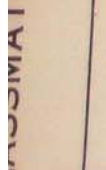
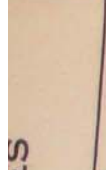


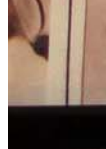


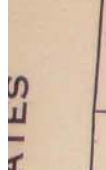
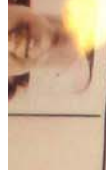



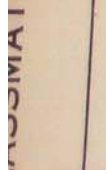
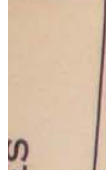

# Teacher's Prayer

I want to teach my students how ~ To live this life on earth ~  
To face its struggles and its strife ~ And to improve their worth ~  
Not just the lesson in a book ~ Or how the rivers flow ~  
But how to choose the proper path ~ Wherever they may go ~  
To understand eternal truth ~ And know the right from wrong ~  
And gather all the beauty of ~ A flower and a song ~  
For if I help the world to grow ~ In wisdom and in grace ~  
Then I shall feel that I have won ~ And I have filled my place ~  
And so I ask your guidance, God ~ That I may do my part ~  
For character and confidence ~ And happiness of heart. ~

~ James G. McNeal



# SCHOOL DAYS

1939  
Miss Mary Beckma  
Names  
Sixth Grade  
Vivian White  
Clayton Beckma  
Fifth Grade  
Naomi Moore  
Max White  
Joan White  
Lewis Varney  
Betty Wanstall  
Ernest White Jr.  
Sallie Kemper  
Calvin Waugh  
Zoe Wadgok  
Fourth Grade  
Freddie Mosser  
Dorothy Alderman  
Rex White  
Ruth Kemper  
Curtiss Varney  
Virginia Perry  
Bruce McLaughlin  
Bobby Varney  
Lodge Beale  
Naomi Kemper  
Frieda White  
Billy Wanstall  
Annie Vaughn  
Gail VanVleet  
Edwin L. Pennington  
Greenie Kincaid  
Hester Perry  
Tona Perry

Browns Mountain School ca 1939

Form 3  
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PUPILS' MONTHLY AND TERM  
REPORT CARD  
School Year 1936-1937  
Pupil: Naomi Moore  
Grade: Second  
County: Pocahontas  
State of West Virginia  
Term Beginning: Sept 7 1936  
and Ending: April 23 1937  
Grade Teacher: Grace Threlkeld  
Principal: Grace Threlkeld  
Superintendent: Grace Threlkeld  
Certificate of Promotion  
This is to certify that the above pupil has  
completed the work as required in the course of  
study for the second grade and is hereby  
promoted to the third grade  
Dated this 23rd day of April 1937

















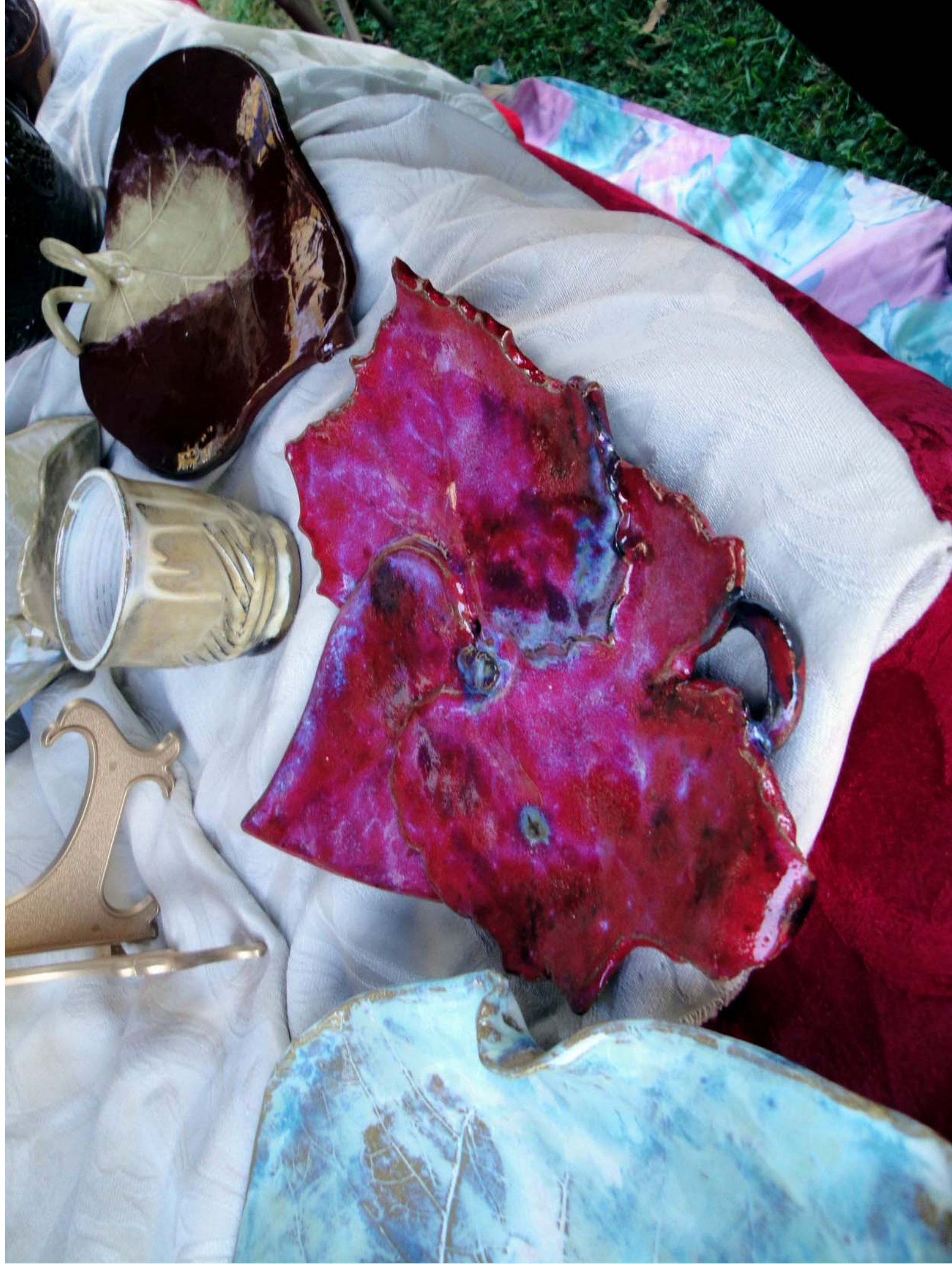
















Grape Jelly  
Contents  
Grapes, water

Grape Preserve  
Contents  
Grapes

Grape Preserve  
Contents  
Grapes, water

CRAB Apple  
Contents  
CRAB Apple  
Sugar

CRAB Apple  
Contents  
CRAB Apple  
Sugar

D



**Huntersville Traditions Day**  
**Saturday, October 2, 2010**  
**9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**



**Information Booth is at the  
Hallie Combs House**

Field Behind Methodist Church

Civil War Living  
History, Al Stone,  
Paolo Marks and Many  
Confederate & Union  
Soldiers.



Carr House

Apple Butter, Homemade Ice  
Cream, Corn Meal, Goats,  
Mule & Wagon, Horses,  
Quilting, Chair Caning,  
Weaving, Shake Making,  
John Wyatt - 10:00, Homer Hunter - 2:00,  
Pam Lund & Pickers - 3:00,  
Knife Making.



Huntersville  
Presbyterian  
Church

William Shafer,  
Eric & Cyla,  
Sentry in  
Soldiers Uniform,  
Living History  
Interpreters,  
Tours & Hefner Family - 1:00



Huntersville Methodist  
Church

Benns, Cornbread,  
Hot Dogs,  
Barbeque, Tours of  
the Church, Old  
Time Gospel Music:  
The Lamberts  
Homer Hunter - 1:00



Huntersville Jail

Bob & Jo Ann Lister-  
Tours  
Bill McNeel—Books



Huntersville School

Flag Raising - 9:00  
Clogging at 11:30,  
Muzzle Loading, Story  
Telling, Beatrice Potter,  
Lemonade, Coffee Grinding,  
Old Games, Veterans, Tours  
of the School,  
Mike & Bonnie Johnson - 10:30,  
Pam Lund & Pickers, - 1:00  
& Laurel Ingles Display in School  
Cafeteria



Carriage House Inn

Arrow Heads  
Display, Pottery,  
Quilting, Food, Crafts &  
Hefner Family - 11:00,  
Juanita Fireball - 12:30,  
John Wyatt - 2:30



Blue House

Homemade  
Ice Cream,  
Wool  
Spinning, Caning Chairs, Hit  
& Miss Engine,  
Vegetables, Basket  
Weaving, Cider Making,  
Juanita Fireball - 2:00, Mike  
& Bonnie Johnson - 12:30,  
Corn Meal & Turkey Call-



Horse Drawn Shuttle Wagon

Load behind Carr's  
House - Lee  
Workman & Jerry  
Burns



Civil War Cemetery Dedication  
1:00 PM

Mary Fisher, Vonda Dixon and  
Daughters of the  
Order of the Rose & VFW Honor  
Corps

Portable Toilets

Landis's Ranch, Huntersville  
School, Methodist Church,  
Carr House, Carriage House  
Inn, Jail House and  
Blue House

Parking

Behind Blue House  
Landis' Ranch  
Ryder's Lot  
Joe McCall's

Old Clerk's  
Office

Enjoy a visit with  
Pocahontas Co.  
Circuit Clerk,  
Butch Michael



Linda Buzzard  
Coleman House

Broom Making,  
Blacksmith & Tours  
of Old Blacksmith  
Shop

Landis' Ranch/Watoga  
Road

Pony Rides & free  
Cowboy Hat  
Enjoy down on the Farm

Lane's House

Old Time Post Office and Soap Making

Tours at Minnehaha School House 10:00 AM to 12:00 AM



## A Bit of History

Huntersville was established in 1821 to 1891 and was named for the hunters and trappers who congregated here at the first trading post in the area. It was the first county seat for Hot Springs and other areas of Virginia to have court in Pocahontas County, Virginia. People wrote about staying in a crude cabin belonging to John Bradshaw while court was in session for the week.

Huntersville grew to have hotels, a new courthouse, jail, stables, a ballroom, stores and many homes. During the Civil War times, the town was ravaged and some churches and homes became hospitals for soldiers. Huntersville became a town in the newly formed State of West Virginia.

The Methodist Church of Huntersville is noted for its gothic design and was built in 1886. The Huntersville Schoolhouse was built in 1880 and was one of the last two room schoolhouses to close around 1968.

The Huntersville Courthouse was built around 1822. All that remains of the first county seat is a clerk's office from one end. A jail was built to accommodate the courthouse and later the bars in the windows were used to make horseshoes for civil war soldiers. A second jail (the Huntersville Jail) was built in 1883 and was used about ten years before the county seat moved to Marlinton. It was built out of hard, white Medina Sandstone.

The Huntersville Presbyterian Church was built in 1854 and played an important role in the civil war being used as a hospital and headquarters by soldiers.

Sponsored by: Huntersville Traditions Day - Non-Profit Organization

Tim Wade - President, Terry Carr - Vice President, Sarah Sanders - Secretary, Loretta Malcomb - Treasurer

Pocahontas County Convention and Visitor Bureau

Pocahontas County Dramas, Fairs and Festivals

Pocahontas County Parks and Recreation

Snowshoe Foundation

WV Humanities Council



1883

## Huntersville Jail

**WELCOME!** Come in for a tour and place your feet on the same ground of the inmates of the 1800's.

In 1824, a new jail was built to accommodate the holding of court in the newly built courthouse in what was then Bath County, Virginia. This jail holds many stories and inmates of the past have reduced their feelings to writings on the walls – One of these being: “There is a land of pure delight, where saints immortal reign, there is a haven for black and white, but Hell’s in this old jail” One inmate, around 1834, who was being housed on a charge of robbery, broke through the wall and escaped. During the civil war around 1863, a lieutenant colonel requested that the iron from the walls of the jail be purchased to make horseshoes for the Cavalry under his command. The iron from the jail was removed for such and the remainder sold to citizens of the county. For lack of security, a new jail was requested built around 1881 but was not completed until 1884. Hard, white Medina sandstone was used in the construction. By 1891, the town of Marlinton was formed from “Marlin’s Bottom” and the citizens of the county moved the county seat to Marlinton and this jail, no longer being used and being preserved by the Pocahontas Historical Society, is a monument to the past and a fun place to visit, still holding the stories of the inmates of the 1800's.

emc